

Matthew 6:1-8

Application Questions

1. In your opinion, what is the role of charitable deeds in the life of a Christian? What are these? Which of these are you doing? Which would you like to do more? What does James 4:17 add to your understanding of this?
2. What is the danger that Jesus is pointing out in verses 1-6? Why are these things such a problem to those who would desire to do good deeds? In your opinion, what is the greatest safeguard against doing things to be seen by people?
3. Read Luke 12:1-3. How does Christ's warning against "the leaven of the Pharisees" apply to our motives in doing good works? How can you have more integrity in what you do? In other words, how can you do your good works to please God rather than to please people? (Consider John 5:41-44.)
4. In verses 5-6, Jesus applies these principles to prayer. He tells us not to be like the hypocrites who love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners. When is public prayer appropriate? When is it inappropriate?
5. What challenges do you face in prayer? How does the fact that the Father will reward you openly when you pray secretly affect you? What prayer pointers does Christ give that can help you pray more effectively? (Consider Luke 18:1-14; John 15:16; 1 John 5:14-15.)